

## **MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING OF JANUARY 13, 2003**

The regular meeting of the Los Angeles County Commission for Women was held on January 13, 2003 in Room 830, Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration, 500 West Temple Street, Los Angeles, California.

In the absence of a quorum, President Jernigan called a meeting of the Committee of the Whole to order at 10:10 a.m, followed by introductions. The following Commissioners were present for the roll call:

President Jernigan  
Vice President Mariajimenez  
Treasurer Lesser  
Commissioner Becerra-Jones  
Commissioner Morgan  
Commissioner Perkins  
Commissioner Rodriguez

### **PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

President Jernigan reported the following:

- She expressed condolences to Treasurer Lesser for the loss of her brother.
- Proposed state reductions in services due to budget cuts would cause hardship for women and children.
- The Commission received thank you letters from the domestic violence shelters who received grants from the Commission.

(Commissioners Creary, Cooperman and Mummey joined the meeting during the President's Report, constituting a quorum.)

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

On motion of Vice President Mariajimenez, seconded by Commissioner Creary, and unanimously carried, the minutes of December 9, 2002 were approved.

### **TREASURER'S REPORT**

Treasurer Lesser reported that expenditures for December, 2002 were \$757.80, leaving a balance of \$33,284.00 in the Commissioner's Fund and a spending allocation of \$5,547.33 for Commissioners for January 2003. On motion of Treasurer Lesser, seconded by Commissioner Perkins, and unanimously carried, the Treasurer's Report was received and filed.

## **STAFF REPORT**

Jim Corbett, Executive Office, reported the following:

- Candida D'Amato passed away on January 9. She worked with the Commission as the Vice Chair of the Prostitution Issues Committee and was a previous Women of the Year awardee. Funeral services for her will be Wednesday, January 15 at Forest Lawn in the Hollywood Hills.
- The Board of Supervisors have proclaimed January 2003 "Cervical Cancer Awareness Month." One event planned is the Cervical Cancer Prevention and Education Initiative Community Breakfast on January 15, 2003 at the Dorothy Chandler Pavilion.
- Supervisor Gloria Molina and court officials opened a new child care waiting room at the Pomona South Courthouse.

Commissioners requested staff to find out about whether the family of Candida D'Amato had requested donations to a charitable fund in tribute to her.

## **PRESENTATION ON THE 2000-2002 STATUS REPORT**

President Jernigan congratulated Commissioner Perkins on the completion of the Status Report and thanked the Metropolitan Water District for its in-kind donation in printing the report.

(Commissioner Dunbar joined the meeting.)

Commissioner Perkins explained the background of the Status Report and thanked the Metropolitan Water District for printing and publishing 6,000 copies. She also thanked Commissioners, Commission Intern Monica McCann, and staff for collaborating on the report. She made the following remarks:

"Approximately three years ago, we had consensus for an idea that Commissioner Esparza brought before this body that we produce a report that focuses on the status and services provided for women throughout Los Angeles County. Although the journey towards the completion of this project took many expected and unexpected turns, we are here this morning to release publicly the end results of a collective effort.

"First let me recognize the staff's input. Thank you to all. In particular, we thank Steve Erickson, who was assigned to take the lead in the project. Steve's professionalism and commitment to the end result is noted and appreciated. Monica McCann, a graduate student we selected from a talent pool provided to us through the County's Internship program, actually organized and wrote the report. What we provided to Monica was a monumental task of combing through materials and details from the work of all of your committees and sub-committees. Monica is a remarkable young woman, whom I wish could have been here today, but classes this morning prevented that.

"It is also important to recognize this commission's team spirit around this project. We at times disagreed with specifics, but never with the idea that this project was not worthy of our best collective efforts. It was also stated and understood that this was a first time effort and that there is an expectation to do it even better the next time. As a social scientist, I know without a doubt that there is a need and a high level of respect for qualitative work such as this report. We should be proud as a body of professional women to have contributed to the awareness needed within our communities about the station and status of women.

"Finally, I want to introduce Bobbie Becker of the Metropolitan Water District. I should say first, however, that Ken Ashford, another Metropolitan employee and big supporter of this commission, in fact introduced me to the Commission for Women, when we worked for then Supervisor Ed Edelman, who prepared the draft ordinance to establish this commission. So you see there are and has been Metropolitan ties here since the beginning.

"Bobbie Becker I can't say enough about. She has in many respects helped to put a face on the Metropolitan Water District. Your company is well represented when Bobbie is out and about helping to build alliances and partnerships that make good business sense and demonstrates a commitment to inclusion and community respect. On behalf of this Commission, Bobbie, thank you for being the first point of contact at the Metropolitan Water District. We look forward to a long partnership with you."

Joe Tait, Chief Operating Officer, and Bobbie Becker, Program Development Manager, spoke on the expansion of the MWD's minority and women business owners programs.

On motion of Treasurer Lesser, seconded by Commissioner Cooperman, and unanimously carried, the Commission received and filed the 2000-2002 Status Report with commendation.

#### **APPROVE CO-SPONSORSHIP OF WOMEN IN ACTION LOBBY DAY**

On motion of Commissioner Cooperman, seconded by Commissioner Creary, and unanimously carried, the Commission approved the expenditure of \$50.00 to co-sponsor Women in Action Lobby Day on May 15, 2003 at the Sheraton Grand Hotel in Sacramento. Commissioner Rodriguez suggested that the Commission consider providing a scholarship to a young lady to participate in Women in Action Lobby Day. President Jernigan asked that this be deferred to the deliberation of funding and representation.

#### **APPROVE EXPENDITURE TO ATTEND "SAVING THE SAFETY NET" CONFERENCE**

On motion of Commissioner Cooperman, seconded by Treasurer Lesser, and unanimously carried, the Commission approved the expenditure of \$80.00 for four Commissioners to attend the "Saving the Safety Net" Conference on January 31, 2003.

Commissioners Cooperman, Dunbar, Mummey, Morgan and Rodriguez expressed interest in attending the event. The conference cost for Commissioner Dunbar will be paid out of the President's Fund.

### **UPDATE ON SCHOLARSHIP RECEPTION**

Commissioner Duba updated the Commission on the 2002 Scholarship Reception for Girls at Risk on Tuesday, January 14, 2003. The program includes a presentation to the awardees before the Board of Supervisors, an orientation program, and a luncheon reception for sponsors and scholarship recipients.

### **APPROVE SLATE OF 2003 WOMEN OF THE YEAR AWARDEES**

Vice President Mariajimenez announced the following District Awardees:

First District	Josefina Lopez, Playwright and Poet Casa 0101
Second District	Dr. Betty R. Price, D.D., First Lady and Pastoral Assistant Crenshaw Christian Center
Third District	Sister Una Connelly and Sister Carmel Somers Valley Family Center
Fourth District	Melanie Washington, C-17 Material Analyst The Boeing Company
Fifth District	Denise Witmeyer, Child Advocate and Vice President Antelope Valley Foster Parent Association

She also announced the following Community Awardees selected by the Awards Luncheon Committee:

Media	Magdalena Beltran-del Olmo The California Wellness Foundation
Law	Aviva K. Bobb, Supervising Judge of Family Law Los Angeles Superior Court
Education	Jacqueline Powers Doud, Ph.D., President Mount St. Mary's College
Health	Nora Mitsumori Volunteer
Business/Labor	Maureen A. Kindel, President Rose & Kindel

Vice President Mariajimenez also announced that the President's Awardee is Sandra J. Evers-Manly of the Northrop Grumman Corporation and that Christine Devine, the newscaster from Fox-11 T.V. News, will be the Mistress of Ceremonies.

On motion of Commissioner Creary, seconded by Commissioner Rodriguez, and unanimously carried, the Commission approved the slate of awardees.

Commissioner Morgan announced that the press release for the Awards Luncheon will be mailed by February 10, 2003.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### **Health Committee**

Commissioner Creary reported that the Health Committee will meet on January 27, 2003 and that she will attend the Cervical Cancer Prevention and Education Initiative Community Breakfast on January 15, 2003.

### **Legislative Committee**

Vice President Mariajimenez reported that the Committee is working with Assemblywoman Carol Liu on a proposal to help women better access health care services.

### **Media/Public Relations Committee**

Commissioner Morgan presented a newspaper article in the Los Angeles Daily News on Pauline Field's proposal to establish a women's commission in Glendale. Commissioners requested that Commission staff update the website with information on the Awards Luncheon, the scholarship reception and the 2000-2002 Status Report.

### **Older Women's Issues Committee**

Commissioner Mummey recommended a book for girls and women, Women's Guide to Personal Finance. She also announced the County of Los Angeles 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Multicultural Conference on March 26 and 27, 2003.

## **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Flora Galoostian, Office of Affirmative Action Compliance, invited the Commission to coordinate a panel on women in the workforce at the Multicultural Conference. Commissioner Becerra-Jones will work with the OAAC to put together the panel and topic. The next planning committee meeting will be January 23, 2003 at 2:30 p.m. at the Department of Public Works, 900 S. Fremont Ave., in Alhambra.

### **COMMUNITY OUTREACH/ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Commissioner Cooperman reported that Commissioner Dunbar was honored for serving many years as a member of the Board of Directors of the Casa De Rosas, a shelter for homeless women.

Commissioner Mummey reported on a meeting of the Santa Monica Auxiliary in which the nursing shortage was discussed.

Vice President Mariajimenez announced a Violence Against Women Act training on Sunday, January 26, 2003 at La Placita from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Commissioner Creary announced that her son Adam Creary was selected as a 2003 student ambassador to London and Europe in the Eisenhower program next summer.

Commissioner Rodriguez reported on Mid-Wilshire Domestic Violence Collaborative survey reports. After reporting that Sojourn Services opened up a second stage shelter, she requested staff to mail information on the shelter to Commissioners.

Commissioner Cooperman announced an anniversary vigil for the Roe vs. Wade Supreme Court decision on January 22, 2003.

### **MATTERS NOT ON THE POSTED AGENDA**

Commissioner Creary requested that a discussion on First District representation be placed on a future agenda. President Jernigan indicated that appropriate steps had been taken as recommended at the Commission's Retreat, and any additional actions rest with the appointing authority.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, the Commission adjourned at 11:42 a.m.

## **ATTENDANCE**

### **COMMISSIONERS**

Ruth Jernigan, President  
Yvonne Mariajimenez, Esq., Vice President  
Charlotte Lesser, Treasurer  
Yolanda Becerra-Jones  
Roslyn Cooperman  
Ruth Creary, Ph.D  
Reiko Duba  
June Dunbar  
Lila Morgan  
Janet Mummey, Esq  
Barbara Perkins  
Olivia Rodriguez

### **EXCUSED**

Susan Carpenter-McMillan

### **UNEXCUSED**

Sophia Esparza  
Brenda C. Smith, M.D.

### **COUNTY REPRESENTATIVES**

Roxane Marquez, First District  
Renita Bowlin, Second District  
Khanh Nguyen, Executive Office  
Jim Corbett, Executive Office  
Twila Kerr, Executive Office  
Steve Erickson, Executive Office  
Audra Galang, Executive Office  
Flora Galoostian, Office of Affirmative Action Compliance  
Angel Triola, Office of Affirmative Action Compliance  
Lieutenant Marie Hannah, Sheriff's Department  
Holly Thomas, Probation Department

### **GUESTS**

Joe Tait, Metropolitan Water District  
Bobbie Becker, Metropolitan Water District  
Kiywhanna Kellup, Peace & Joy Care Center